

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII NIACT IMMEDIATE 0769

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS BROWN, SIEVERTS AND CANNON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, VM

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE BY PRESS
SPOKESMAN JULY 7:

2. Q: THE JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS THAT SRV VICE FOREIGN
MINISTER PHAN HIEN HAS TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT THE WAY FOR
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM COULD BE OPEN IF BOTH SIDES
AGREED THAT NORMALIZED TIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE
STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF ASIA. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT
ON THIS?

A: NO, I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS TO WHICH
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YOU REFER. OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM IS CLEAR. AS WE HAVE STATED AT
EACH OF THE THREE ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN
PARIS LAST YEAR, WE ARE PREPARED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS
AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL AND TO EXCHANGE EMBASSIES AND
AMBASSADORS. ONCE EMBASSIES ARE IN PLACE, WE WOULD LIFT
THE TRADE EMBARGO.

Q: THE SAME PRESS ARTICLES ALSO REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD HAS TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER SONADA THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD FACE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CONGRESS IF IT MOVED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD?

A: NO, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, I HAVE NO COMMENT FOR YOU ON THESE PRESS REPORTS.

Q: A PRESS REPORT FROM TOKYO CITIES A HIGH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR DEMAND FOR A PROMISE OF MASSIVE AID AS A PRECONDITION TO NORMALIZATION. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PRESS REPORTS, HAS THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATED TO US THE LIFTING OF THAT PRECONDITON?

A: WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT THAT A COMMITMENT ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BE PART OF ANY AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

3. WE ARE CONTINUING TO USE ABOVE GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS PROMPTED BY ADDITIONAL PHAN HIEN STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAVE "DROPPED THEIR PRECONDITIONS" FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATION TO CIL MEETINGS SHOULD OF COURSE DO LIKEWISE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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